

Global Member Care Network Conference

The Global Member Care Network (GMCN) is an online community of over 3000 members. This community is a treasure trove of information and resources for member care practitioners and cross-cultural workers alike. Ali has been part of the group since nearly the beginning of her member care career and has appreciated the connection to research and resources that she then passes along to our missionaries. GMCN holds an international conference every three years. The last conference was scheduled for 2021 in Kenya but was canceled due to COVID restrictions still in place at that time. Ali was looking forward to attending a member care conference on the continent of Africa as, it seems, most are held in the US or Europe and usually at a time when Ali is in neither of those places. When GMCN started planning the 2024 conference for Kenya, Ali was very excited that it would be in the neighboring country to Ethiopia, where we were living at the time. With our move to the US, a conference in Kenya was a long distance away but Ali was determined to attend anyway.



The chance to gather with like-minded people in the world of member care is a rare one and not to be missed. Therefore, away she went to Kenya at the end of November. This gathering was full of over 350 participants from 48 nations! What a gift to be in a room with such a mix of people and languages. The majority of sessions were led by people from Africa, Asia and South America. This is especially important at a time when missionaries are now being sent in large number from these areas and not just from the West. Models and structures for member care that have been developed for US cross-cultural workers don't meet the needs of those in other countries. One example of this is the family structure in some countries in which adult children are responsible for the care of their parents. What then happens to the extended family when a child becomes a missionary and doesn't receive a salary? This was one of many topics addressed.

Ali was encouraged by the flourishing programs focused on caring for children of missionaries and recognizing the unique experiences they have as third-culture kids. Added bonuses included spending time with friend Britt Odemba, who serves with LCMS in Kenya, and Vivian Ochoa, a former teammate when Ali served on the Mobile Member Care Team West Africa.

Leadership Teams

One of the key reasons that we are now living in the US is so that Paul can have better interaction with other parts of Lutheran Bible Translators. We have really seen the benefit of this over the last several months as he has been able to have better discussions by being in person. At the beginning of December, Paul was able to be an active participant in planning for the next three years and using that plan, to define a one year plan for 2025. At the beginning of January, Paul will be leading the field leadership meetings as they work through the organizational plan together and develop country specific plans from it.



Paul meeting with the LBT leadership team in Missouri in early December.

We have mentioned that Lutheran Bible Translators is part of a collective impact alliance of eleven Bible translation organizations called ETEN (Every Tribe Every Nation). Paul was asked to lead the Field

Paul & Ali
FEDERWITZ
Hannah, Levi & Eden

ABOUT US

Paul's role is two-fold: He provides strategic leadership internationally as LBT's Chief Programs Officer while also serving as Director of Programs in Ethiopia.

Ali is the Member Care Manager and Prayer Working Group lead.

Paul and Ali's ministry is funded solely through donations from individuals and groups.

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Please make checks payable to Lutheran Bible Translators and designate *P/A Federwitz Ministry*

Online giving at
lbt.org/pafederwitz

Dhirayata New Testament Dedication



On November 1st, the Dhirayata New Testament was dedicated in southern Ethiopia. This project was started by another organization, but LBT supported it by providing consulting services. The Old Testament project, which is now in progress, is fully supported by LBT. Paul was not able to attend the dedication, but Dr. Jim Kaiser who served as the translation consultant represented LBT. To watch a short overview video, go to <https://youtu.be/pmo7HhiTRtg>

Strategy Work Group for the alliance, which coordinates plans and strategies of each organization. Although we have a common goal, each has its own values and methods. One of the projects that we worked on is finding common ways to talk across organizations about how we each approach work in language communities. This includes how we share information with each other so that we do not duplicate our efforts.

Family News

On the home front, we enjoyed hosting Ali's parents for a small, quiet, enjoyable Thanksgiving dinner. It was strange to be celebrating this holiday in a country where others were also celebrating. We are used to carving out a little space for celebration in countries that don't share this tradition and where life and work continue as normal on Thanksgiving Thursday. We had the added joy of getting our first snow (first we have experienced in 9 years) a few days later while decorating for Christmas.



Hannah has settled in well at Concordia University Nebraska. She is a member of Cantamus, the university's women's choir, and participated in the annual Christmas at Concordia concert in early December. Paul and Ali were able to attend the concert and spend some time with Hannah as well. It was fun to see her in her element and meet some of her friends. The concert was a professionally polished event and one we are already looking forward to attending in future years. Not only was the music top-notch, hearing several different vocal groups as well as the orchestra and hand bell choir, but the choreography of getting each group on or off stage was integrated into the programming and made for seamless transitions (Hannah is first row, second from the right).

